IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the present application:

1. (Currently amended) A method for mirroring data comprising:

receiving at a first storage server a data access request from a client coupled to the first storage server;

writing the data access request to a first portion of a non-volatile storage device in the first storage server;

transmitting the data access request from the first storage server to a second storage server ~~to be written to a mass storage device on the second storage server~~, wherein the second storage server writes the data access request into a file stored in a mass storage device on the second storage server; and

when the first portion of the non-volatile storage device in the first storage server is full, ~~causing the second storage server to transfer the data access request from the mass storage device on the second storage server to a data container corresponding to the first storage server on the second storage server~~ applying the data access request to a volume managed by the first storage server and causing the second storage server to apply the data access request to an image volume of the volume.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, ~~wherein causing the second storage server to transfer the data access request from the mass storage device to the data container comprises~~ further comprising:

sending a synchronization request to the second storage server from the first storage server when the first portion of the non-volatile storage device in the first storage server is full.

4. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

sending an acknowledgement from the second storage server to the first storage server in response to receiving the data access request to cause the first storage server to send a response to the client after the data access request has been stored on the first storage server and stored in the mass storage device on the second storage server.

5. (Canceled).

6. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, ~~further comprising:~~ wherein the file is

~~writing the data access request to a first portion of the mass storage device on the second storage server, the first portion of the mass storage device on the second storage server being~~ associated with the first portion of the non-volatile storage device in the first storage server.

7. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the data access request is transmitted from the first storage server to the second storage server over a network.

8. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

assigning a sequence number to the data access request, wherein the sequence number designates a position of the data access request in a group of data access requests to ensure that the data access request is properly ordered within the file.

9. (Canceled).

10. (Currently amended) An apparatus comprising:

a destination storage server to mirror data stored by a source storage server;

a network interface on the destination storage server coupled to the source storage server, the network interface to receive a data access request from a client coupled to the source storage server, wherein the source storage server has written the data access request in a first portion of a non-volatile storage device in the source storage server, wherein the destination storage server is configured to write the data access request to a ~~data container~~ file corresponding to the source storage server; and

a mass storage device on the destination storage server to store the file ~~receive the data access request~~, wherein the data access request is ~~transferred~~ applied to a nonvolatile mass storage device coupled to the destination storage server when the first portion of the non-volatile storage device in the source storage server is full.

11. (Canceled).

12. (Previously presented)The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the network comprises a Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol (TCP/IP) network.

13. (Canceled).

14. (Previously presented)The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the destination storage server comprises a nonvolatile random access memory (NVRAM).

15. (Previously presented)The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the destination storage server modifies an image of a volume maintained by the source storage server on the nonvolatile mass storage device coupled to the destination storage server according to the access request when the source storage server makes a synchronization request.

16. (Canceled).

17. (Currently amended) A method comprising:

receiving a data access request at a destination filer from a first source filer, wherein the data access request is written to a first portion of a first memory in ~~coupled to~~ the source filer;

sending an acknowledgement to the first source filer in response to the destination filer receiving the data access request;

writing the data access request to a second memory in ~~coupled to~~ the destination filer;

transferring the data access request from the second memory to a first file corresponding to the first source filer on a volume ~~coupled to~~ managed by the destination filer; ~~and~~

removing the data access request from the second memory after transferring the data access request to the first file;

applying the data access request to an image of a volume in response to a specified signal from the first source filer indicating that the first portion of the first memory is full, wherein the volume is maintained by the first source filer and the image is maintained by the destination filer;

receiving a second data access request from a second source filer, wherein the second data access request is written to a third memory in ~~coupled to~~ the second source filer;

sending a second acknowledgement to the second source filer in response to the destination filer receiving the second data access request;

writing the second data access request to the second memory in the destination filer;

transferring the second data access request from the second memory to a second file corresponding to the second source filer on the volume managed by ~~coupled to~~ the destination filer; and

removing the second data access request from the second memory after transferring the second access request to the ~~volume~~ second file.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Previously presented) The method of claim 17, further comprising connecting the second source filer to the client in response to a system failure.

20. (Currently amended) The method of claim 17, further comprising:

~~applying the access request to an image of a volume maintained by the source filer; and~~

allowing the client to access the image.

21. (New) A method of mirroring data, the method comprising, the method comprising:

operating a destination storage server to maintain a plurality of mirror volumes in a non-volatile mass storage subsystem, wherein each mirror volume mirrors a corresponding one of a plurality of source volumes maintained by a plurality of source storage servers that are coupled to communicate with the destination storage server;

receiving, at the destination storage server, write requests from the source storage servers, each said write request corresponding to a write request received by one of the source storage servers from a storage client for updating one of the source volumes;

operating the destination storage server to store the write requests temporarily prior to synchronizing the mirror volumes with the source volumes, including

storing a log of the write requests received by the destination storage server from the source storage servers in a non-volatile random access memory in the destination storage server,

using the destination storage server to maintain a plurality of files in the non-volatile mass storage subsystem, each said file corresponding to a separate one of the plurality of source storage servers, and

storing each write request received by the destination storage server from a source storage server in the one of said files which corresponds to said source storage server; and

in response to receiving a specified signal from the source storage server, operating the destination storage server to synchronize the mirror volumes with the source volumes based on the write requests received from the plurality of source storage servers.

22. (New) A method as recited in claim 21, wherein each of the source storage servers maintains a separate log of write requests from storage clients in a partitioned non-volatile random access memory, and wherein the specified signal from the source storage server corresponds to a partition becoming full in one of the non-volatile random access memories in one of the source storage servers.

23. (New) A method as recited in claim 21, wherein each partition of the partitioned non-volatile random access memory in each of the source storage servers corresponds to a distinct one of the plurality of files in the non-volatile mass storage subsystem.